

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 FMC-04 SS-20 NSC-10

PRS-01 PM-07 L-03 SCEM-02 NEA-10 INT-08 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /163 W

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P R 301840Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5807

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ENRG TD XL AO MZ PO

SUBJ: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN TRINIDAD; OIL TRADE WITH ANGOLA
PROHIBITED

REF: PSO 1515 (NOTAL); STATE 234084

SUMMARY: GOTT HAS PROHIBITED ALL PETROLEUM TRADE WITH ANGOLA
AND HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL SEEK LEGISLATION PROHIBITING
ALL TRADE WITH PORTUGAL, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. A HIGH-LEVEL
COMMITTEE WILL REPORT TO THE CABINET ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1,
ABOUT EFFECTS OF ARAB CRUDE SHUTOFFS ON TRINIDAD AND ITS CARICOM
PARTNERS. FURTHER CLUES ON GOTT'S THINKING MIGHT SURFACE AT
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RULING PARTY'S CONVENTION THIS SUNDAY. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 29 THAT ALL OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MUST CEASE IMMEDIATELY ALL PETROLEUM TRANSACTIONS, IMPORT OR EXPORT, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, WITH ANGOLA. (LAST YEAR, TRINIDAD IMPORTED 6 MILLION BBL OF ANGOLAN CRUDE, AND EXPORTED 487,000 BBL OF REFINED PRODUCTS TO ANGOLA, ACCORDING TO GOTT TRADE STATISTICS.) STATEMENT SAID THAT TRINIDAD PETROLEUM EXPORTS TO ANGOLA HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT THROUGH AN INTRA-COMPANY ARRANGEMENT KNOWN AS THE WEST AFRICAN REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM. GOTT ALSO STATED THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT TO EXTEND THE 1967 PROHIBITION ON ALL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA TO INCLUDE PORTUGAL, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED CABINET MEETING DEALING WITH WORLD ENERGY CRISIS AND ITS EFFECTS ON TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. GOTT SAID THAT ITS DECISION HAS BEEN CABLED TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH COPIES SENT TO OAU AND OPEC SECRETARIES-GENERAL, AS WELL AS TO ALL OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN TRINIDAD. ACTION WAS TAKEN, ACCORDING TO GOTT, IN CONFORMITY WITH UNSC RESOLUTION 312, FEBRUARY 4, 1972, AND UNGA RESOLUTION 2918, NOVEMBER 14, 1972. CABLE STRESSED THAT GOTT HAD ALWAYS OPPOSED PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OF 24, AND RECALLED RECENT GOTT DECISION TO PROVIDE TRAINING FACILITIES FOR AFRICANS IN ANTICIPATION OF "INEVITABLE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE COLONIAL TERRITORIES" (POS A-71).

3. IN SEPARATE ACTION, THE GOTT ESTABLISHED A FOUR-MAN COMMITTEE OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF THE OIL SITUATION, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TRINIDAD'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS CARICOM PARTNERS. COMMITTEE IS ALSO TO CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT TRINIDAD'S OIL INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT REVENUE LOSSES IMPLICIT IN REDUCED OPERATING LEVEL OF TEXACO'S REFINERY. (POS 1515). ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN GIVEN THREE DAYS TO MAKE ITS REPORT, WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1.

4. OIL COMPANIES HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT RATIONING IS UNNECESSARY IN TRINIDAD, SINCE THE ISLAND PRODUCES MORE THAN ENOUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PETROLEUM FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, BUT INDICATED THAT GAS STATIONS MAY CLOSE DOWN ON SUNDAYS IN A GESTURE "TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE ENERGY CRISIS AND LET PEOPLE KNOW HOW SERIOUS IT IS IN THE WORLD." WITH REGARD TO SHIP BUNKERING (STATE 234084), WE KNOW OF NO INSTANCES OF US MERCHANT VESSELS BEING DENIED BUNKERING IN TRINIDAD. NEVERTHELESS, THE BUNKER SUPPLY SITUATION IS VERY TIGHT, AND WE KNOW OF ONE CASE IN WHICH A NETHERLANDS SHIPPING FIRM WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD BY TEXACO TRINIDAD THAT LATTER

NEEDED HEAD OFFICE APPROVAL FROM NEW YORK TO PROVIDE BUNKERING.

5. COMMENT: GOTT'S DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANGOLA POLICY, WHICH DREW MAJOR HEADLINE COVERAGE IN ALL PAPERS, SEEMS DESIGNED TO CURRY FAVOR WITH OTHER THIRD WORLD NATIONS AT LITTLE COST TO TRINIDAD. GOTT IS CLEARLY IN A BIND ON OIL POLICY, SINCE IT DESIRES TO MAINTAIN OPTIMUM LEVEL OF REFINERY PRODUCTION AND WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO ACCEDE TO GARICOM NATIONS' PLEAS FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN DISTRIBUTION OF REFINED PRODUCTS, YET ARABS ARE UNLIKELY TO RESTORE TRINIDAD'S CRUDE SUPPLY WHEN MOST REFINERY PRODUCTION IS DESTINED TO U.S. GOTT'S ANNOUNCEMENT, PLUS TIMING OF COMMITTEE REPORT DUE SATURDAY, MAY PRESAGE AN ATTEMPT BY DR. WILLIAMS (WHO MANY BELIEVE PLANS TO STAY ON AS PRIME MINISTER DESPITE AN EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS IMPENDING RETIREMENT) AT HIS PARTY'S CONVENTION THIS SUNDAY EITHER A) TO ADDUCE ENERGY CRISIS AS ONE OF REASONS REQUIRING HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE OR B) TO MAKE DRAMATIC PRONOUNCEMENT ON GOTT'S INTENTIONS IN ENERGY FIELD.
MARSHALL

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